



NEWS RELEASE

Governor Michael R. Pence
Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
Director Ted A. McKinney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indiana FFA honored by the Indiana House of Representatives

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State FFA was honored by House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 18 unanimously passed by the Indiana House of Representatives. Special guests at the session were Indiana State FFA officers including President Allie Abney (Franklin), Secretary Kayla Hoenert (North Posey), Northern region Vice President Rebekah Frey (Prairie Heights), Southern Region Vice President Ethan McNeely (Scottsburg), Treasurer Cameron Frazier (Riverton Parke), Reporter Shelby Sigman (Benton County) and Sentinel Sarah Dirksen (Jay County).

“Indiana FFA plays a very important role in Hoosier agriculture as it prepares new generations of leaders in this vital part of our state’s economy.” said Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. “We congratulate FFA chapters throughout the nation as they observe National FFA Week.”

Ted McKinney, director of Indiana State Department of Agriculture, described the resolution as an important way to honor Indiana’s investment in youth leadership. “FFA is an organization that trains high school students to be leaders in agriculture,” said McKinney. “In an industry as complex and multi-faceted as agriculture, it is important that we foster servant leadership and excellence among our emerging leaders. FFA is the epitome of an organization that accomplishes just that.”

Prior to the resolution’s introduction to the House of Representatives, the Indiana State Officers visited Lt. Governor Ellspermann in her office and enjoyed a luncheon with ISDA staff and other agencies in the Lt. Governor’s office.

Future Farmers of America was founded in 1928 in Kansas City by a group of young farmers to promote the future of agriculture. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 575,000 members nationwide and is simply known as FFA. Not only is Indiana home to the National FFA organization, the Indiana FFA Association is growing and continues to educate students on the value of agriculture and servant leadership. In 2013, Indiana’s FFA membership surpassed 10,000 students, the highest membership in more than 25 years.

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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